The Development of the Cultural and Historic Landscape Idea

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National Park Service Definition

Cultural landscape - a geographic area (including both cultural and natural resources and the wildlife or domestic animals therein), associated with a historic event, activity, or person or exhibiting other cultural or aesthetic values.
Historic Sites

A landscape significant for its association with a historic event, activity or person. Examples include battlefields and presidential homes and properties.
Historic Designed Landscapes

A landscape that was consciously designed or laid out by a landscape architect, master gardener, architect, engineer, or horticulturist according to design principles, or an amateur gardener working in a recognized style or tradition. The landscape may be associated with a significant person, trend, or event in landscape architecture; or illustrate an important development in the theory and practice of landscape architecture. Aesthetic values play a significant role in designed landscapes. Examples include parks, campuses, and estates.
Historic Vernacular Landscapes

A landscape that evolved through use by the people whose activities or occupancy shaped it. Through social or cultural attitudes of an individual, a family, or a community, the landscape reflects the physical, biological, and cultural character of everyday lives. Function plays a significant role in vernacular landscapes. This can be a farm complex or a district of historic farmsteads along a river valley. Examples include rural historic districts and agricultural landscapes.
Ethnographic Landscapes

A landscape containing a variety of natural and cultural resources that associated people define as heritage resources. Examples are contemporary settlements, sacred religious sites, and massive geological structures. Small plant communities, animals, subsistence, and ceremonial grounds are often components.
Challenges

• Scale
• Ownership
• Living and often dynamic
• Subject to suburbanization, abandonment, fragmentation, and climate change, in the case of agriculture global markets, crop failure etc...
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Oley Valley Berks County
Learning from the Oley Valley

• The importance of public engagement
  The National Trust and PHMC set up four local committees

• Integration into land use planning – historic district designation but also agricultural conservation

• Multi sectorial – Environmental values role on the environmental movement battling to

• Long term community leadership and support – monitored elections
Agricultural Conservation
Indigenous Cultural landscapes
Large Landscape Conservation